

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-19 and 21-37 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 12, 18, 21 and 34 have been amended.

Claims 6, 16 and 20 have been cancelled (claim 9 having been previously cancelled).

Formal Matters

Claims 6, 16 and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While these claims have been cancelled hereby, the limitations recited there now appear in their respective independent claims from which these claims ultimately depend. Applicants respectfully submit that, as a result, these amendments result in the allowability of the independent claims presented herein.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4, 8-10, 12, 14, 17-19, 21 and 25-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agnew, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,950,745 (Agnew) in view of Bhargava, et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0123618 A1 (Bhargava).

Claims 2, 11, 13 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agnew, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,950,745 (Agnew) in view of Bhargava, et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0123618 A1 (Bhargava) as applied to Claims 1, 12 and 21 above, and further in view of Segal, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,836,651 (Segal).

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agnew, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,950,745 (Agnew) in view of Bhargava, et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0123618 A1 (Bhargava) as applied to Claim 2 above, and further in view of Segal, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,836,651 (Segal).

Claims 5 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agnew, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,950,745 (Agnew) in view of Bhargava, et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0123618 A1 (Bhargava) as applied to Claims 1 and 12 above, and further in view of Cannell, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,850,604 (Cannell).

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agnew, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,950,745 (Agnew) in view of Bhargava, et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0123618 A1 (Bhargava) as applied to Claim 21 above, and further in view of McLampy, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,566,236 (McLampy).

Applicants respectfully submit that, in light of the amendments made to variously incorporate the limitations in claims 6, 16 and 20 into amended independent claims 1, 12, 18 and 21. As claims 6, 16 and 20 were previously indicated as allowable if rewritten independently in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the inclusion of their limitations into the independent claims renders independent claims 1, 12, 18 and 21 allowable for at least these reasons alone.


In light of the foregoing arguments, the various cited references, even in light of skill in the art (which Applicant maintains is neither appropriate nor properly defined in the Office Action), fail to make obvious the claimed invention, as claimed in independent claims 1, 12, 18 and 21. Moreover, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-15, 17, 19 and

21-37, which depend from independent claims 1, 12, 18 and 21, are also allowable, for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

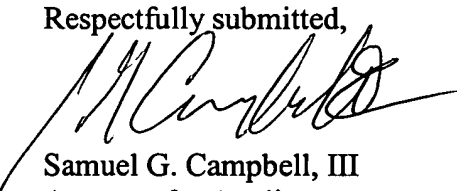
In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5084.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 16, 2006.

  
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Date of Signature

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